

Prayer on the PORCH



A Strategy to Inspire Your Church Members to
“Step Up” to Relational Outreach
This Month and Beyond



Simplicity

Building Spiritual Movements Exemplified

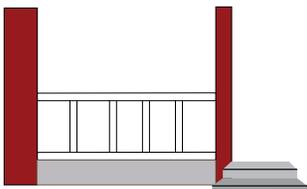
When God shows up, count on something memorable!

Involve people in a non-threatening form of outreach and help move them up in their level of commitment as they experience success

Campus Crusade Resources

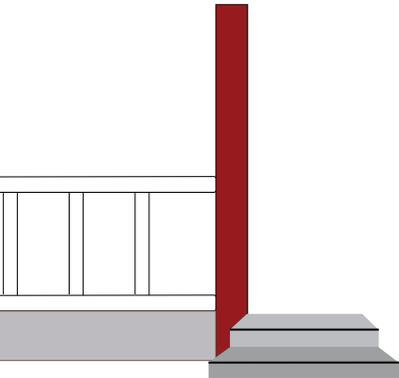


CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere



LEADER'S GUIDE

Don't let this Easter pass without touching every home in your community with a simple and effective neighborhood outreach strategy your whole church can implement . . .



Let's face it. The whole idea of "door-to-door" evangelism frightens some people . . . and understandably so. But with our Lord's call to "preach the Gospel to every creature" shying away from personally sharing our faith with those around us leaves us with only a few options--all of which contain the same challenges. So what's the solution?

We believe we have found it!

Churches across America have found it, too. And they're employing the solution to their advantage.

They have found that a particular strategy, called Prayer on the Porch, is an effective way to mobilize their congregation to "step up" to relational evangelism in their own community.

Jesus said: "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

There is an immediate harvest for *your* church and it lies in the surrounding neighborhoods.

But most churches have a major challenge to working that harvest, especially in the Easter season.

So you're probably thinking: "Outside of my regular outreach team, I can't seem to get the whole of my congregation to take ownership of evangelistic efforts."

Right.

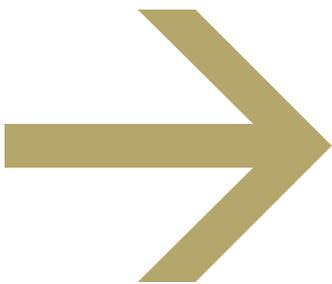
But here's the good news: You can motivate, inspire, and equip your congregation to participate in a spiritual harvest this Easter season.

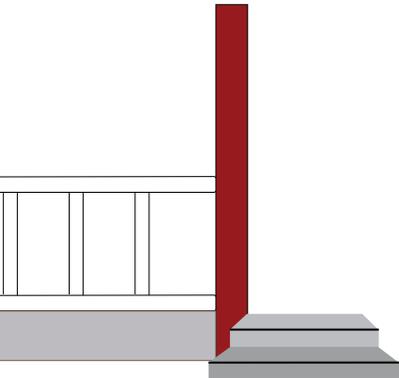
How?

By using an already proven method that has been implemented by the Body of Christ and has actually worked!

The strategy begins with an acknowledgement of a reality. MOST church members are petrified by the idea of evangelism, let alone door-to-door.

So how can you expect to mobilize your church—even your less involved





members—to actually participate in a spiritual harvest of their surrounding neighborhoods?

Simplicity.

Bring simplicity to your outreach effort. And then you don't have to write off this Easter season as a season of community *non*-outreach.

Here is a great illustration of the kind of simplicity we're talking about.

In the summer of 2004, the pastor of a mid-size church in the southeast was tasked with a challenge similar to yours. "How can I get every church member to take ownership of evangelism? How can I expand my church's outreach effort to include laborers beyond the current scope of involvement? And more importantly, how can I involve the broad church membership into the practice of sharing their faith with the world around them?"

Then one phrase seemed to offer a solution to that challenge.

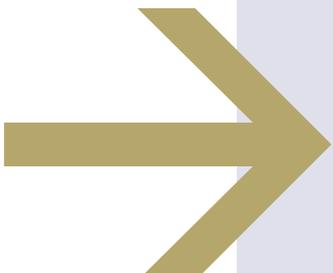
Prayer on the Porch.

It clicked. A compelling event that every church member could look at and say, "I can do that!"

The concept was very simple. Again, simplicity is the key.

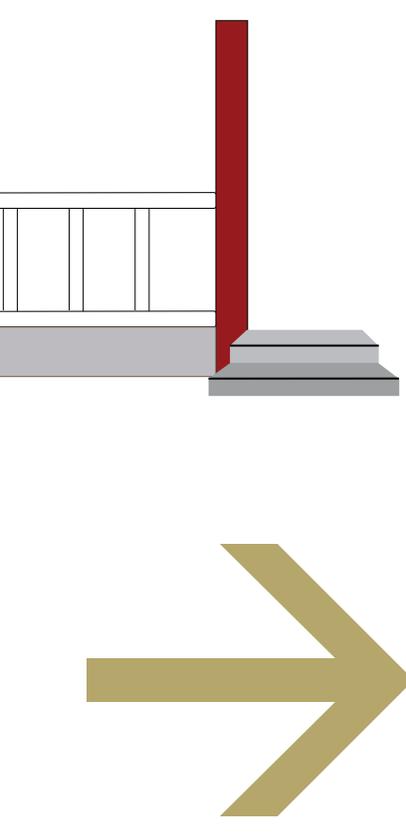
Pick out 3 Saturdays in the Easter season months. Invite church members to arrive in the church lobby at 9:30 a.m. for assignment of teammate and brief—very brief—training. After distributing maps highlighting each team's assignment, give the simple instructions. "There are only two things that you need to do when you canvas these neighborhoods and knock on doors.

"When the person answers the door, say 'Hi, I'm _____ from [Name of Church]. How can we pray for you?' Then simply stand on their porch, lift up their request to God, and leave them a small bag with some information (see below) about the Christian walk, a church invitation, ministry brochure, etc."



Discover the needs of your community by using a mapping service that helps you reach more of your neighbors more effectively.

Visit www.campuscrusade.com/POTPMAP for more information about **The Mapping Center for Evangelism and Church Growth**, a non-profit Christian ministry dedicated to providing technology and data services for churches and Christian ministries to reach more homes for Christ through neighborhood outreach, small groups, visitor follow-up, and connecting members by neighborhood for discipleship and outreach.



The beauty is in its simplicity—your church members are less likely to feel overwhelmed or intimidated by the idea of a “Prayer on the Porch” outreach, as opposed to the dreaded phrase “door-to-door evangelism.”

The majority of your church is already equipped with the necessary ingredient for neighborhood evangelism of this kind—prayer. So why not get them to show up and simply use the gift of prayer to make a positive difference in the community?

Back to the illustration—which is a *true* story, by the way.

After finalizing the strategy with his pastoral staff, the pastor announced—from the pulpit and in the bulletin—the Prayer on the Porch Strategy to his church two weeks before the first Saturday it was to be implemented.

Already having strongly encouraged the entire church staff—both pastoral and administrative—to show up for the first “Prayer on the Porch” Saturday, the congregation then took ownership of the evangelistic effort . . . in a big way! More than 150 members of this mid-sized church showed up the first Saturday. They were ready to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the neighborhoods that morning.

Armed with maps highlighting their carefully selected geographic destinations and gift bags containing church/ministry brochures and evangelistic pieces, these mobilized church members went forward to expose the love of Jesus in their community . . . one porch at a time.

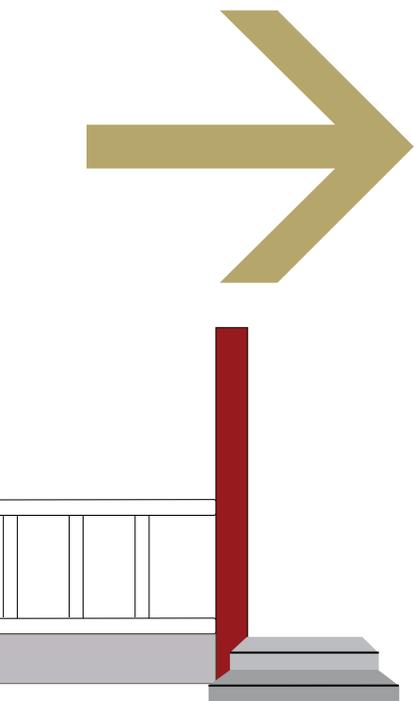
Campus Crusade for Christ exists to help fulfill the Great Commission. Its ministry purpose can be summed up in one phrase . . . Building Spiritual Movements Everywhere . . .

Prayer on the Porch is Building Spiritual Movements exemplified.

Again, simplicity is the key to get participation from more of your church members than ever before. Here are the easy steps for making Prayer on the Porch part of your Easter season Outreach 2009 efforts.

- 1) Have your outreach team or pastoral staff prepare maps and block out the areas in your community you feel comfortable sending teams of two—either a married couple or two adults, or one adult accompanying two youths, should make a team. Make as many maps with highlighted areas as you would expect to have teams to meet the need.
- 2) Plan for the participants to meet one Saturday morning a month at the church to pick up maps, bags with evangelistic resources, and church information/invitations.
- 3) Give the teams instruction, in a corporate setting, on how to implement the Prayer on the Porch Outreach . . .

Go to the door, knock or ring the bell. When the resident answers, give your name, what church you represent and simply ask: “How can we pray for you?” Pray for them there



and leave the bag of information with them.

Have you and your pastoral staff put your own touches on Prayer on the Porch, but remember to keep it simple enough so that the average church member will feel that they are capable of taking part.

The simplicity and the emphasis on prayer—rather than “door-to-door” evangelism—is less likely to intimidate or overwhelm the less-involved in the congregation.

Now the real question . . . What might be the result of such a Prayer on the Porch?

From the true story we’ve been using to illustrate this Strategy . . . here is a real and recorded result.

When God shows up, count on something memorable!

From a woman whose house had been visited during a Prayer on the Porch outreach, whose story is an encouragement to those who choose to be “God’s hands, feet, and heart” by going door-to-door:

I wanted to write you a brief but thorough testimony about a couple from your church that was in our area passing out your [Church] brochure. We’ve lived in our home off Skyland Drive now for seven years and only once did an unexpected guest show up (and that was right after we moved in). I won’t go into great detail but will tell you that at this period of my life, I’m going through yet another season of brokenness. While it’s a time of purification and purging, at times it feels painful and lonely.

I had just finished reading Psalm 34 during my quiet time. It was also during this time that I cried out to God and asked Him why this season had to be so painful and why I felt all alone. In His gentle way, He gave subtle reassurance that He was there. I’d just laid down my head to rest when I heard the doorbell ring. Standing in the doorway was a couple in their 50s. They handed me the [Church] brochure and introduced themselves. They asked me if they could pray with me about anything and I told them no, but did thank them for stopping by and asked them if I could pray for them for anything and they replied as I did. I didn’t go into detail with them, but now I wish I had. They didn’t realize that when I opened my door, they were not strangers. They were God’s hands, feet and heart saying, “I am here. You see, I won’t leave you or forsake you.” But most of all, through their presence, He was saying, “You are not alone.”

We exchanged our goodbyes and only eternity will record what they accomplished that day. I called my pastor’s wife right away, with tears in my eyes, and shared this story with her because I know it was my Heavenly Father’s gentle reminder that I am truly never alone. I know that it was not a coincidence that the couple was only the second unexpected visitor I’d had in seven years, and on a day that I considered one of the loneliest of my life.

If you have a chance to speak with and/or encourage those that do door-to-door witnessing at your church, feel free to share this testimony with them as an encouragement.

The scripture that comes to mind when I think of that couple and the many others I'm sure that go out and do the same thing is found in Matthew 25:35-40: *"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me." Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and fed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"*

While I may not have appeared to be hungry or thirsty in the physical sense, I was spiritually.

Thanks to God for His faithfulness and for answering my cry for help. God bless you and your church.

—CTH

Stories like this are the effect of "relational" outreach. This type of evangelism often results in touched lives with similar stories.

The Body of Christ in America can easily fit into the "attractual" form of evangelism and discipleship. In other words, they build their buildings. They hold services or host special events. They wait for people to come to them.

However there is another type of outreach emerging. The incarnational form of evangelism and discipleship says "We'll live out our Christian walk where the world is. We'll live, work, play among those who need Christ and affect change from the inside of those realms of influence. "

What better way to relate to people as the Body of Christ than to go and meet them where they are and demonstrate the love of Jesus! Can't you see the impact this would have on your community and thus the world around you?

Prayer on the Porch is just one idea to encourage relational evangelism from—not just your outreach team—but your entire church.

Involve people in a non-threatening form of outreach and help move them up in their level of commitment as they experience success.

Implicit in the strategy name, Prayer is the key component and the only necessary resource to implement this outreach.

But we strongly suggest also arming your teams with quality leaving pieces.

In addition to updated church and ministry information, consider including a prayer request card in case your teams knock on the door of an empty home. . . And evangelistic tools, like the "Combo" JESUS DVD and the *Who Is This Jesus?* mini-

magazine. Your choice would depend on your budget.

If your evangelism or outreach budget allows, consider both resources for your leave-behind bag.

If your budget is smaller, the *Who Is This Jesus?* mini-magazine is a great lower cost evangelistic resource that churches are using in great numbers to reach their communities with the message of the gospel. Both resources come with volume discounts, so that larger outreaches are equipped within budget.

Win your neighborhood to Christ, touch lives, and make disciples by using these “non-threatening” methods.

We say “non-threatening” because they’re non-threatening both to the person being approached and equally non-threatening to the church member who needs that loving push to share their faith.

Putting it in terms that seem less intimidating or overwhelming—sharing Christ is as easy as talking to God on behalf of someone else. By lifting your subject in prayer, you give testimony to your faith in God and attract that person to learn more about the place you’re coming from.

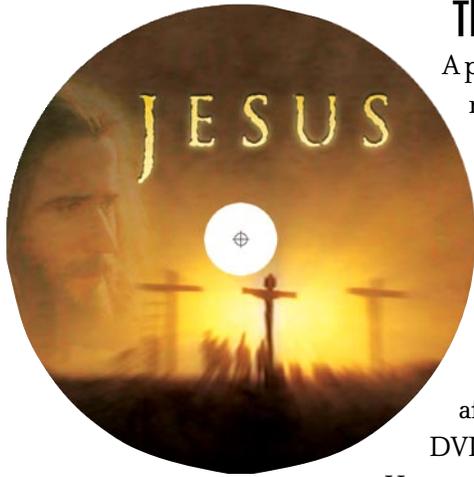
So to wrap up, don’t plan to have your church miss this incredible outreach opportunity. If you’re on the pastoral team, an officer of the church, or an outreach team member, get behind an effort such as this. See this Easter as an ideal time to get outside, go meet your neighbors, and share Jesus. And do so with the resources that have been designed to make these efforts easy and effective.

**What’s stopping you from doing your own Prayer on the Porch?
Nothing.**

Go to: www.campuscrusade.com/9105AA for more information about the Prayer on the Porch Outreach Strategy or to order resources that will help make your efforts easy and a success.

Campus Crusade Resources

for Easter Outreach 2009 and Prayer on the Porch Strategy



The "Combo" *JESUS* DVD (Product Code: COMBOS-BAGS)

A proven resource for sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people right where they are. The life-changing power of Christ can be as close as their DVD player. The "Combo" *JESUS* DVD features the special edition of the *JESUS* film for adults in multiple languages. On the very same DVD is *The Story of Jesus for Children* (in English and Spanish) which is the masterful adaptation of the original *JESUS* film, edited especially for a younger audience . . . See how one DVD can minister to an entire household! **Special Offer:** Whether your church is small, medium, or large, the "Combo" *JESUS* DVD is available in an affordable package for community outreach this Easter. Case lot = 30 DVDs. Please note that these options include FREE "A Gift for You" Door Hanger Bags.

1 - 4 Cases - \$195.00 per case = \$6.50 per DVD, a \$12.99 per DVD value

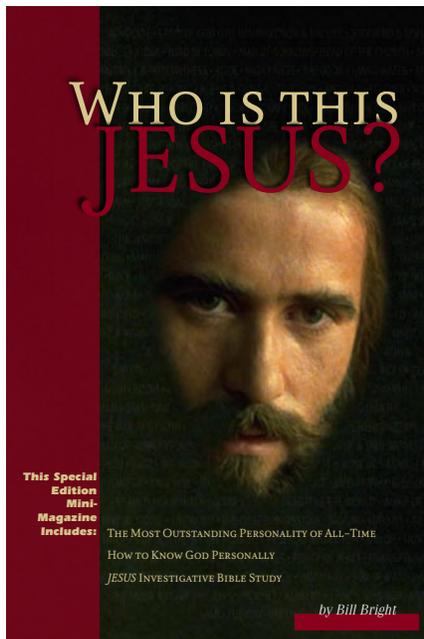
5 - 9 Cases - \$150.00 per case = \$5.00 per DVD, a \$12.99 per DVD value

10 - 83 Cases - \$105.00 per case = \$3.50 per DVD, a \$12.99 per DVD value

84 Cases** (One Pallet) - \$90.00 per case = \$3.00 per DVD, a \$12.99 per DVD value

** For special shipping information on one pallet or more, please call 800-827-2788

Go to: www.campuscrusade.com/9105AA to place your order on our secure web site 24/7.



Who Is This Jesus? mini-magazine (Product Code: WITJST {25-pack} or WITJOP {300-pack})

Have you ever wished for a simple, high-quality, digest-sized handout that would be appropriate to give to everyone that your church members came into contact with? One of Campus Crusade's most versatile ministry tools ever has been newly formatted to make it even more usable to you as the best tool for both outreach and discipleship. Take hard-hitting, timeless truth and combine it with powerful graphics and you get this glossy, 24-page mini-magazine—with a 5-part investigative Bible study—that was developed with modern day outreach in mind. Whether you need a piece introducing Christ to an unbeliever or a follow-up piece to ground a new believer and help them understand the significance of their decision, *Who Is This Jesus?* is both a non-threatening, relationship-oriented resource and a tool to implement "relational" outreach. Retailing for \$0.99 each, three convenient package options with discounts available allow you to easily stock an outreach effort of any size.

Go to: www.campuscrusade.com/9105AA for more information on

how to order.